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## **U.S. EPA News Advisory: Maywood Fire/Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident Response Update 6/20/16**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its state, and local partners continue the response operations and assessment of hazardous waste in the aftermath of the Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident in Maywood, Los Angeles County, Calif.

### **Status of Response**

EPA is working alongside the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Los Angeles County Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) in a Unified Command to assess and cleanup the fire-impacted area.

### **Current response activities:**

- On the north side of Fruitland Avenue, a total of 17 parcels remain evacuated pending safe occupancy determinations by the LA County health officials. These 17 properties include a mix of single family homes and apartment units.
- Ash samples collected throughout the area—including a parking lot, the facility perimeter and the surface of residences—showed elevated concentrations of metals, including copper and zinc. Based on these sampling, the ash exceeds CA hazardous waste thresholds.
- Fire engines will spray water outside building surfaces. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control's Emergency Response Program will dispose of contaminated decontamination water.
- EPA contractors continue cleaning the streets and sidewalks on Fruitland Avenue and 52nd Street, between Everett Avenue and Maywood Avenue. Outdoor loose ash is being removed with an industrial strength truck-mounted vacuum.
- Residential cleaning services will be provided to clean the interior of all affected buildings where permission has been granted by the homeowner.
- Decontamination of cars parked on 52nd Street the night of the fire continues. Car owners will also be provided a voucher to take the car to a car wash for a thorough cleaning.
- EPA's Environmental Response Team and contractors are preparing access roads into the burned facility to facilitate investigation of abandoned chemicals and approximately 100 unknown drums. A burned debris pile will be covered to prevent wind erosion.

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